



Grace through Faith Part 1

Someone once asked, “How do you make someone love you without affecting free-will?” Free-will, I define it as the ability to exercise a God-given right to choose by freely believing. It is one of many beauties of being a human. It is an honor that God bestowed upon every single person since the creation of man. Of course, God’s will is for all of us to want to willfully choose life instead of death, but it ultimately comes down to you.

Matthew 16:15

He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

When the Bible talks about *choosing life*, it means to believe in Jesus as God & Savior and everything He accomplished at the cross. You see, Grace can save and impart the gift of righteousness only if one believes or it can just be a teaser to the goodness of God but stop there, never allowing it to run its full course in their life. Thus, Grace won’t affect one’s destiny if one doesn’t believe.

Grace will persuade and show how real it is, but ultimately one chooses whether they want to repent or continue to live as a non-believer. We see this throughout the Gospels when Jesus healed all who were oppressed. All of Jesus ministry was the very Grace of God appearing to every single person in Israel. We can say that the Grace of God was available to all and impacted by healing them yet most of them ultimately rejected Jesus as the Messiah. This means the Grace of God was available to all, but it doesn’t mean all them believed.

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men...

After the resurrection, the Grace of God went to all the Gentiles. Now, the Grace of God has appeared to all men – Jew and Gentile. Know that Grace has already become available to everyone; it’s an individual gift already for every single person, but it won’t become effective if one doesn’t reach out and accept it. That’s what the Biblical phrase “grace through faith” comes down to. It basically means to believe the Grace of God in the person of Jesus the Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it.

This beautiful Grace in your life is the result of having believed in Christ and everything He did at the cross to make you as righteous as He is. It is not the result of undermining the Grace of God by trying to become more righteous in the sight of God through your own efforts. The

opposite is also true; it is not the result of overwriting everyone's freedom of choice by dissuading faith in Christ and ascribing automatic salvation to the whole world. Only believers in Christ are saved! As much as God wants everyone to be saved by this beautiful Grace, He will always honor people's ability to exercise their right to choose by freely believing. It's a free choice we all get to make. Thus, he will never take anybody or impose anything by force.

In other words, it's like if Jesus put together a wonderful party and sent out invitations to the whole world to let them know they are all welcomed to come to Him; in fact, they are guests of honor or VIP and everything good is freely given. His disciples go out announcing this invitation and confirming it with sample gifts. However, the world has chosen not to accept the invitation but reject it. In like manner, Jesus has already paid for the whole world's sins and fulfilled the Law on their behalf, so He has commissioned believers in Christ to announce the Gospel of Grace to the whole world and confirm it with signs and wonders as the Holy Spirit creates opportunity to draw them near, but they have not believed but refused.

Hebrews 4:2

For we have heard the Good News, just as they did. They heard the message, but it did them no good, because when they heard it, they did not accept it with faith.

This is the purpose of preaching the Gospel of Grace. It is to announce the awesome message that will always invite the non-believer to believe in Christ and receive righteousness as a gift. It also leads the believer in Christ to renew the mind and awaken to the gift of righteousness and receive His blessings. If at the end of the day the message that you heard does not invite a hurting world to believe in Christ (a call for faith) or lead the believer in Christ to awaken and receive the gift of righteousness (sublime grace), then it ought to be rejected as a usurp of the Gospel of Grace. The Gospel of Grace must be accepted with faith.

A great minister of the Gospel says it like this:

- “Faith's only function is to receive what grace offers.” - **John Stott**

There is a large amount of dangerous doctrines that has caused a lot of harm to the believer in Christ. It contradicts the Gospel of Grace by distorting it. (I will elaborate more in the next article: Grace through Faith Part 2)

Acts 16:30-31

And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...”

His love needs not to be forced upon anybody, not by religion nor distorting doctrines; because the announcement of His love via the Gospel of Grace is so compelling that it takes the devil to try to blind the world so they may not see His Grace. But as their eyes open, they will be asking you, “What must I do to be saved?” And you'll respond, “Only believe!”

By: Joyner Briceño